



In the Specification:

In a preferred embodiment of the invention, filters are utilized to select and screen programming displayed by an EPG. In this context, a filter is a mechanism for selecting programs based on a selected criterion or criteria.

An example of a usable format for filters is depicted in Fig. 1B. In Fig. 1B, a filter 100 is a list of program or event entries 102. The filter entitled "The Sci-Fi Fan's Guide" is a list of programs selected according to a criterion or criteria that selects programs of interest to sci-fi fans.

Fig. 2A illustrates the use of third-party edited guide listings. The entire universe of available programming is indicated by the list of all programs/events provided by the local service provider 200.

The EPG generator utilizes to filter [to] a display those programs available/accessible in the EP. Alternatively, programs available/not accessible might also be displayed as an incentive to the viewer to subscribe to the premium program which meets a selected filter's criterion or criteria. This could be a powerful revenue generator for the service provider.

In a preferred embodiment, the actual filtering of the programs to be displayed in an EPG is performed utilizing the Program/Event ID in the entry table 104 (Fig. 1B).

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for managing [programming] program listings comprising:

storing a database of available [programming] program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

utilizing a first filter, which selects a [first] subset of programs [according to some criteria, and a second filter, which selects a second subset of programs according to another criteria,]

to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings included in said [first] subset, [and said second subset]

[wherein at least some of the programs of the first subset are different from the programs of the second subset, wherein at least some of the programs of the second subset are different from the programs of the first subset]

wherein the filter comprises a list of program/event entries.

2. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

utilizing said first filter and a [said] second filter having
a list of program/event entries with the second filter selecting a second subset of
programs to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings including all of the programs included in said first subset and all of the programs included in said second subset.

3. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising :

utilizing said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the [programs] program/event entries of the first subset are the same as at least some of the [programs] program/event entries of the second subset, with the second filter [having a higher priority than said first filter], to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings including programs included in both said first and second subsets.

4. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising [the steps of]:

creating a filter utilizing a list of program/event entries in the [programming] program listing database.

6. (Amended) The method of claim [5] 1, wherein, [the] a set of program/event entries corresponding to the list intersects [the] a set of program entries corresponding to program/event entries in the database of available [programming] program listings.

7. (Amended) The method of claim [5] 6 wherein the set of program/event entries corresponding to the list is a proper subset of the set of program/event entries corresponding to program entries in the database of available [programming] program listings.

9. (Amended) A system for managing [programming] program listings comprising:
a memory storing a database of available [programming] program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;
a memory storing a first filter [having certain criteria] comprising a first list of program/event entries;
a memory storing a second filter [having different criteria from the memory storing the first filter] comprising a second list of program/event entries; and
a processor which selects a first subset of programs according to the first filter and a second subset of programs according to the second filter to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings included in said first subset and said second subset,
wherein at least some of the programs in the first subset are different from the programs of the second subset, wherein at least some of the programs in the second subset are different from the programs of the first subset.

10. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to utilize said first filter and said second filter to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings including all of the programs included in said first subset and all of the programs included in said second subset.

11. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the processor is further configured to utilize said first filter and said second filter, wherein at least some of the programs of the first filter are the same as at least some of the programs of the second filter, [with the second filter having a higher priority than said first filter,] to generate an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings including programs included in both said first and second subsets.

12. (Amended) The system of claim 9 wherein the process is further configured to create a filter utilizing program/event entries in the [programming] program listing database.

14. (Amended) The system of claim [13] 9 wherein [the] a set of program/event entries corresponding to the [list] first and second lists intersects [the] a set of program/event entries corresponding to program entries in the database of available [programming] program listings.

15. (Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the set of program entries corresponding to the list is a proper subset of the set of program entries corresponding to program entries in the database of available [programming] program listings.

17. (Amended) A method for managing [programming] program listings comprising:
storing a database of available [programming] program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

displaying a user configuration screen having a plurality of program/event sources, a first program filter comprising a first list of program/event entries and a second program filter comprising a second list of program/event entries;

selecting at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen;

filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the first program filter to produce a first subset of programs [according to some criteria];

filtering programs of the at least one of the plurality of program/event sources utilizing the second program filter to produce a second subset of programs [according to another criteria]; and

generating an electronic program guide displaying [programming] program listings included in said first subset and said second subset;

wherein at least some of the programs of the first subset are different from the programs of the second subset, wherein at least some of the programs of the second subset are different from the programs of the first subset.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the electronic program guide displays [programming] program listings including all of the programs included in said first subset and all of the programs included in said second subset.

19. (Amended) The method of claim 17 [wherein the first subset of programs produced by the first program filter is a first list of programs, and the second subset of programs produced by the second program filter is a second list of programs,] wherein at least some of the programs [produced by the filters] in the first and second subsets are the same, wherein the first and second lists of [programs] program/event entries [are] intersect, and wherein the electronic program guide displays [programming] program listings consisting of programs produced in both said first and second subsets.

20. (Amended) An interactive filter selective mechanism of available [programming] program listings comprising:

a database of available [programming] program listings comprising a plurality of program/event entries;

a plurality of program/event sources;

a first program filter comprising a first list of program/event entries that filters the program/event sources to produce a first subset of programs [according to some criteria];

a second program filter comprising a second list of program/event entries that filters at least one of the program/event sources and the first subset of programs to produce a second subset of programs [according to another criteria];

a selection of [programming] program listing sources including the plurality of program/event sources, the first subset of programs, and the second subset of programs;

a user configuration screen having a display of the selection of [programming] program listing sources, wherein a user selects at least one of the plurality of program/event sources, the first program filter and the second program filter from the user configuration screen; and

an electronic program guide having display of programs included in said first subset and said second subset.

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21. (Amended) The [method] interactive filter selective mechanism of claim 20 wherein the electronic program guide displays [programming] program listings consisting of programs produced from both the first program filter and the second program filter.

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